

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 DPW-01 AID-10 IO-03

EUR-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 PRS-01 /080 W

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O R 101030 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2942

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 10330

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE 10, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZED ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE  
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EMBASSY AS OF 1800 JUNE 10.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

A. FIGHTING REMAINED NEAR OR AT THE RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF THE PAST FEW DAYS, WITH BOTH SIDES JOCKEYING FOR POSITION IN APPARENT ANTICIPATION OF THE SIGNING IN PARIS OF A SUPPLEMENTAL CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. RVNAF FORCES, STILL TENSELY ALERT, ARE ENGAGING IN NUMEROUS "SECURITY OPERATIONS" (PATROLLING AT LONGER RANGE THAN USUAL ETC.) WHICH OFTEN RESULT IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY; IN SOME CASES, RVNAF UNITS ARE CONDUCTING MORE COMPLEX DEPLOYMENTS DESIGNED TO REDUCE ENEMY CONCENTRATIONS AND BASE AREAS. HOWEVER, NO COUNTRY-WIDE ENEMY OFFENSIVE HAS YET DEVELOPED, ALTHOUGH RVNAF FIELD COMMANDERS ARE BRACED FOR ONE.

B. FIGHTING IN QUANG NAM CONTINUES, SOME ON GVN, SOME ON ENEMY INITIATIVE. COMMUNIST 130 MM ARTILLERY HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN SMALL AMOUNTS IN MR-1. IN KONTUM, ENEMY FORCES APPEAR TO BE CONSOLIDATING AREAS GAINED IN SEVERAL DAYS OF SHARP FIGHTING WEST OF KONTUM CITY. RVNAF IN-PROVINCE RESERVES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FULLY COMMITTED, BUT THE SITUATION IN KONTUM SEEMS TO HAVE STABILIZED FOR THE TIME BEING. RVNAF FORCES ARE ACTIVE IN BOTH CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BINH DINH, WITH SOME APPARENT SUCCESS.

C. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF ENEMY TANK ACTIVITY NEAR AN LOC AND MR-3 CG IS EMPLOYING LTGEN MINH SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF TACAIR AND ARTILLERY IN THE EASTERN MR-3 PROVINCES OF BINH LONG, TAY NINH, HAU NGHIA, AND BINH DUONG. HE HAS DENIED THAT THE ROUTE 13 CLEARING OPERATION ORDERED BY PRESIDENT THIEU HAS BEEN CALLED OFF, BUT IT IS CLEARLY BOGGED DOWN. IN MR-4, FIGHTING CONTINUES ACROSS CENTRAL DINH TUONG AND IN CHUONG THIEN. IN THE LATTER PROVINCE, AN RVNAF COMBINED AIR MOBILE OPERATION WAS LAUNCHED JUNE 9; RESULTS HAVE YET TO BE REPORTED.

D. THE IMPASSE OVER INSPECTION OF DRV BAGGAGE ON THE USAF C-130 FPJMT/ MIA AIRCRAFT AT TAN SON NHUT CONTINUES. ANOTHER FPJMT/ MIA MEETING IS IN PROGRESS, THE FOURTH DEVOTED TO THE PROBLEM SINCE THE INFIGHT INCIDENT JUNE 8.

PART I: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM/ MISSING IN ACTION (FPJMT/ MIA)

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1. IN SPITE OF TWO SPECIAL MEETINGS ON JUNE 9 AND ONE ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 10, FPJMT/ MIA DELEGATIONS HAVE NOT YET REACHED AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES FOR EXAMINING THE BAG CONTAINING THE DEVICE WHICH CAUSED A FIRE AND SLIGHT INJURIES ON THE JUNE 8 SAIGON/ HANOI/ SAIGON LIAISON FLIGHT OF USAF C-130. PERSONAL BAGGAGE AND CARGO REMAINS ON THE C-130 AT TAN SON NHUT. REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH DELEGATION ARE TAKING TURNS WATCHING THE BAGGAGE ABOARD THE PLANE.

2. IN THE JUNE 10 MORNING FPJMT MEETING, USDEL DETECTED AN APPARENT SOFTENING OF DRV AND GVN POSITIONS ON EXAMINATION OF BAGGAGE AND THEREFORE INTRODUCED A NEW PROPOSAL ON PROCEDURE FOR RELEASING ALL BAGGAGE AND CARGO FROM THE PLANE, EXCEPT THE BURNED DRV BAG WHICH WOULD BE HELD IN A SECURE PLACE UNTIL AGREEMENT

COULD BE REACHED ON EXAMINATION PROCEDURES. THE MEETING WAS INTERRUPTED TO PERMIT THE DELEGATIONS TO CONSIDER THIS NEW PROPOSAL AND IS SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE AT 1600 JUNE 10. ( SEE SAIGON 10321 AND CHIEF USDEL FPJMT SGN 1300 Z JUNE 9 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS. )

PART II: MR-1

3. VIOLANCE IN MR-1 DECREASED BY ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM YESTERDAY'S RELATIVELY HAIGH LEVEL, WITH 25 INCIDENTS REPORTED AS AGAINST 30 JUNE 9. COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY EMPLOYED 130 MM ARTILLERY AT LEAST TWICE, ONCE WITH 3 ROUNDS AGAINST AN ELEMENT OF THE 51 ST REGT SOUTHEAST OF HUE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ATTACK BY FIRE ( ABF ) IN WHICH 51 MORTAR ROUNDS WERE ALSO RECORDED; AND AGAIN WITH 27 ROUNDS AGAINST THE 78 TH RANGER BTN IN WESTERN DUC DUC DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE. THESE ARE THE TROOPS WHICH WERE DRIVEN FROM THEIR POSITIONS JUNE 8-9, SEE JUNE 9 SITREP. THEY ARE NOW BEGINNING TO REGROUP. ELEVEN OF THE 27 MIA HAVE RETURNED TO MAIN BODY CARRYING 3 KIA 12 REMAIN MIA.

4. AN OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT SEARCHING FOR THE 130 MM ARTILLERY TOOK ONE HIT; AIRCRAFT SUFFERED 1 WOUNDED AND LIGHT DAMAGE. TWO COMMUNIST 130 MM ARTILLERY PIECES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO THE EAST OF THE RANGER POSITIONS.

5. ELSEWHERE IN QUANG NAM, TERRITORIAL FORCES CONTINUE TO PRESS AGAINST GUERRILLA MINI- BASES IN DIEN BAN AND EASTERN QUE SON DISTRICTS, WITH FOUR " ENGAGEMENTS " ( A TERM USED BY ARVN BRIEFERS  
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IN MR-1 TO DESCRIBE INCIDENTS WHICH MAY RESULT FROM FRIENDLY INITIATIVE.) REGION- WIDE CASUALTIES: FRIENDLY 8 KIA, 33 WIA; ENEMY 31 KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 2595 ROUNDS, 960 NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS AND 1635 SOUTH. ARVN 3 RD DIV FIRED 26 ROUNDS OF 175 MM COUNTER- BATTERY AGAINST SUSPECTED 130 MM POSITIONS . FRIENDLY ARTILLERY EXPENDITURE IS DOWN FROM RECENT HIGHS OF ABOUT 4000 ROUNDS DAILY, BUT STILL ABOUT TWICE THE EXPENDITURE RATE WHICH PREVAILED UP UNTIL A WEEK AGO IN MR-1.

PART II: MR-2

6. TOC NHA TRANG REGION HQ REPORTS ONLY 13 INCIDENTS IN MR-2 OVER LAST 24- HOUR PERIOD, CONSISTING OF FOUR FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN NVA/ VC AND RVNAF UNITS ON " SECURITY PATROLS," THREE MININGS, THREE HARRASSMENTS BY FIRE, TWO GROUND ATTACKS, AND ONE SUCCESSFUL RVNAF AMBUSH. FIVE INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN BINH DINH AND FOUR IN KONTUM. CASUALTIES: NVA/ VC 18 KIA; RVNAF, 7 KIA, 9 WIA. HOWEVER, NHA TRANG TOC REPORTS FROM WHICH THESE FIGURES TAKEN APPARENTLY HAVE NOT RPT NOT INCLUDED INFO FROM RECENT FIGHTING WEST OF KONTUM CITY. ONLY KONTUM ACTIONS BRIEFED IN NHA TRANG WERE FOUR RELATIVELY MINOR INCIDENTS, ALL NORTH OF KONTUM CITY.

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COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

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7. SITUATION WEST OF KONTUM CITY WHERE HEAVY FIGHTING HAS BEEN UNDERWAY APPEARS TO HAVE STABILIZED FOR THE MOMENT. ACCORDING TO POLOFF IN KINTUM, THE NVA/ VC ATTACK LAUNCHED EVENING OF JUNE 7 APPEARS TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ITS IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE, A LAND GRAB. THE POPULOUS VILLAGES OF TRUNG NGHIA AND POLEI KRONG HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY COMMUNIST TROOPS, NOW BELIEVED TO BE CONSOLIDATING AND DIGGING IN TO REPEL ANY ARVN COUNTERATTACK. THIS ENEMY SUCCESS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY POOR PERFORMANCE OF ELEMENTS OF 253 RD RF BTN. ( SEE JUNE 8 AND JUNE 9  
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SITREPS AND SPECIAL NHA TRANG REPORTS FORWARDED TO DEPT AS SAIGON 10265 AND SAIGON 10325).

8. THERE HAS BEEN NO ENEMY ADVANCE BEYOND RVNAF DEFENSE LINE WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE CRYSTALIZED WEST OF DAK LECK. FRIENDLY FORCES HAVE NOW BEEN REINFORCED AND MILITARY COMMAND OF THE ACTION HAS PASSED FROM SECTOR TO THE 23 RD DIV. POLOFF BELIEVES NO OTHER FRIENDLY RESERVES EXIST WITHIN KONTUM PROVINCE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ENEMY SHELLINGS SINCE JUNE 9 NOR OTHER INCIDENTS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF KONTUM CITY, AND CONGEN NHA TRANG OBSERVES THAT ENEMY OBJECTIVES SEEM TO BE LIMITED TO TERRITORY ALREADY SEIZED.

9. ALTHOUGH NO ACCURATE FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE, IT APPEARS THAT CASUALTIES FROM THIS ACTION ARE NOT SO GREAT AS FIRST ESTIMATED. HOWEVER, SEVERAL THOUSAND REFUGEES FROM TRUNG NGHIA AND POLEI KONG HAVE FLED THE AREA, SOME TO HAMLETS SOUTH OF DAK BLA RIVER : SOME HAVE JOINED EXISTING REFUGEES AT CAMP MARYLOU; AND OTHERS HAVE ALREADY FILTERED DOWN TO PLEIKU.

10. MOST SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING REPORTED BY MR-2 NHA TRANG HQ WAS AN NVA/ VC ATTACK ON AN ARVN CO. OUTPOST IN BINH DINH, WITH 4 ARVN KIA AND 14 ENEMY KIA. OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACTIVITY INCLUDED REPORTED FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND RVNAF UNITS ON " SECURITY PATROLS" IN REMOTE AREAS OF PHU YEN AND BINH THUAN. THESE PATROLS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED 129 COMMUNIST STRUCTURES. THIS ACTIVITY SUGGESTS THAT MANY SUCH PATROLS ARE MORE OFFENSIVE THAN DEFENSIVE, AND PROVIDES SOME INSIGHT INTO RVNAF " GET YOUR STOMACH OUT OF MY ELBOW" INTERPRETATION OF THE CONCEPT OF " SECURITY PATROLLING".

PART IV: MR-3

1. OVERALL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN MR-3 DECLINED ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM PREVIOUS 24 HOURS, FROM 41 TO 37. THESE INCLUDED 18 ABF'S ( OF 20 ROUNDS OR MORE EACH), 12 GROUND CONTACTS, 4 GROUND-TO - AIR FIRINGS, AND 3 MININGS- BOOBY TRAPS. MR-3 REPORTED ONLY ONE FRIENDLY KIA AND 39 WIA, WITH 6 COMMUNIST KIA.

12. CONGEN BIEN HOA REPORTS THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT ARVN 5 TH DIV OPERATION TO OPEN QL-13 BETWEEN LAI NHE AND AN LOC HAS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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ADVANCED MORE THAT A FEW KMS IN EITHER DIRECTION, AND THAT NO FURTHER ADVANCES ARE NOW BEING ATTEMPTED. HOWEVER, REPORT IN JUNE 9 SITREP ( WHICH ORIGINATED WITH MR-3 G-2) THAT OPERATION HAS BEEN CALLED OFF HAS BEEN CONTRADICTED MR-3 CG LTGEN MINH, WHO ADMITTED TO DCM AND CONGEN JUNE 9 THAT OPERATION HAS BGGED DOWN BUT DENIED THAT IT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

13. MEANWHILE, AN LOC CITY WAS UNDER SPORADIC INDIRECT FIRE BELIEVED TO ORIGINATE WITH NVA TANKS. ACCORDING TO ICCS REGION V CANDEL, ICCS SUB- REGION TEAM IN AN LOC TWOCE REPORTED COMMUNIST TANKS SEVER KMS SOUTH OF THEIR TEAM SITE EVENING JUNE 9 BY LATER REPORTED SITUATION HAD BEEN STABILIZED BY 40 VNAF AIR STRIKES M

RANGER UNITS SOUTH AND SW OF AN LOC HAVE BEEN MORTARED AND THEIR PATROLS ENGAGED ON GROUND BY SMALL ENEMY UNITS. ONE ESTIMATED COMPANY- SIZED ENEMY ELEMENT REPORTEDLY DRESSED IN ARVN UNIFORMS ENGAGED A RANGER PATROL IN THIS AREA.

14. ELSEWHERE, 4 VNAF ARMED HELICOPTERS WERE FIRED UPON AND 3 DOWNED, ON IN BINH DUONG AND TWO IN HAU NGHIA. A FOURTH, FLYING NEAR THU DUC IN FIA DINH PROVINCE BETWEEN BIEN HOA AND SAIGON. WAS FIRED UPON BUT NOT HIT; THIS CHOPPER REPORTEDLY RETURNED FIRE, KILLING TWO ON THE GROUND. TONG LE CHAN RANGER BASE CAMP REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ON 23 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND B-4 RPG FIRE.

15. IN TAY NINH MORNING JUNE 9, PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD DCM AND CONGEN THAT HE IS CONVINCED THERE WILL SOON BY A COMMUNIST ATTACK, AS THERE WAS IN LATE JANUARY, ON THE AREA NEAR THE CAO DAI HOLY SEE. HE HAS STEPPED UP PATROLS, MOVED CHILDREN AND OLD WOMEN FORM THE AREA IN THE HOLY SEE ITSELF, AND PUBLICIZED THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTACK SO THAT PEOPLE CAN TAKE MEASURES TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY.

16. IN LONG KHANH AFETRNOON JUNE 9, PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD DCM AND CONGEN THAT HIS D FORCES HAD THAT MORNING RECEIVED A NORTH VIETNAMESE RALLIER FROM WAR ZONE D, WHO HAD BEEN DRAFTED, HAD RECENTLY COME FROM NORTH VIETNAM AND WAS RALLYING " TO AVOID DEATH IN THE COMING FIGHTING." HE SAID COMMUNIST FORCES ARE POISED TO MOVE INTO HAMLETS WHEN THE SIGNAL COMES FROM PARIS, AND THIS TIME THEY WILL HOLD ONTO THE HAMLETS UNTIL THEIR CONTROL IS RECOGNIZED.

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17. ANOTHER INDICATION THAT COMMUNISTS INTEND TO USE MAIN FORCES IN COMING PRE- REAL- CEASE- FIRE OFFENSVE AND TO HOLD ONTO LAND AND HAMLETS THEY GRAB UNTIL THEIR CONTROL IS RECOGNIZED COMES FROM NHON TRACH AND LONG THANH DISTRICTS IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE. COMMUNIST STRENGTH THERE HAS REPORTEDLY INCREASED RECENTLY FROM ABOUT 100 TO 500 TROOPS, 80-90 PERCENT NVA, AS OF LATE MAY. NEW TROOPS TOLD PEOPLE IN AREA THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO " FORCE" GVN TO OBSERVE CEASE- FIRE AGREEMENT. SINCE MID- MAY, VC IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF CAN GIUOC DISTRICT OF LONG AN PROVINCE AND IN NHON TRACH HAVE TOLD PEOPLE THAT LOCAL FORCES ARE BEING REINFORCED TO ESTABLISH POCKETS UNDER THEIR CONTROL WITHIN GVN AREAS, AND TO HOLD UNTIL CEASE- FIRE IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED AND ICCS RECOGNIZES VC PRESENCE.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 DPW-01 AID-10 IO-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

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LIMDIS

PART V: MR-4

18. DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINS HIGH, WITH MR-4 REPORTING 77 NVA/ VC INITIATED INCIDENTS, DOWN INSIGNIFICANTLY FROM 81 IN PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD THESE COMPRISED 50 ABF' S, 14 GROUND ATTACKS, 12 HARRASSMENTS, AND ONE ACT OF TERRORISM. THE MR-4 BRIEFER ALSO REPORTED 29 RVNAF " SECURITY OPERATIONS". OFFICIAL TALLY REPORTED GVN CASUALTIES SEEM SUSPICIOUSLY LOW, WITH ONLY 22 KIA, 87 WIA, AND 6 MIA. REPORTED ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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106 KIA AND 6 CAPTURED.

19. ACTIVITY WAS HEAVIEST, AS USUAL, IN DINH TUONG AND CHUONG THIEN. DINH TUONG' S 7 INCIDENTS WERE SCATTERED MAINLY THROUGH CAI LAY AND CAI BE DISTRICTS. ALTHOUGH SOME FIGHTING TOOK PLACE NEAR ROUTE 4, THE HIGHWAY IS CLEAR AND THE OFT- CITED " BATTLE FOR ROUTE 4" HAS YET TO BE JOINED.

20. IN CHUONG THIEN, WHERE GVN CASUALTIES WERE SUPPOSEDLY VERY LOW, THERE WERE 15 ABF' S AND 3 GROUND ATTACKS. AT LEAST ONE LARGE RVNAF AIR MOBILE OPERATION ALSO TOOK PLACE IN

CHUONG THIEN JUNE 9. THIS HAS YET TO BE BRIEFED AND MR-4 C  
OF S SAID JUNE 10 THAT RESULTS OF THIS OPERATION ARE NOT YET CLEAR.

21. MR-4 C OF S ALSO DESCRIBED OTHER SIDE AS MAKING ANOTHER  
LAST- DITCH ATTEMPT OT GAIN TERRITORY BEFORE SIGNING OF A SECOND  
CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. SPEAKING OF DINH TUONG, HE ESTIMATES THAT  
COMMUNISTS COVET A DISTRICT TOWN, PROBABLY CAI BE OR CAI LAY.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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BUDAPEST  
JAKARTA  
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JEC PARIS  
BIEN HOA  
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